TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

ITALY

(Repubblica Italiana)

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Italian Republic

Capital: Rome

Population: 56,735,130 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: PM Massimo D’AL

Official language(s) Italian

Economy: Socialist- capitalist

Religions: Roman Catholic (98%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None

International Airport: Rome

Flights from Frankfurt: Aero Lloyd, Alitalia

Other methods of arrival: Ship/road/rail

U.S. Embassy address: Via Veneto 119/A, Rome
Tel: 39-064675-2550/2542/2103/; FAX: 39-06-4674-2666 E-

Transportation: Public transportation: Good.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Good.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Good.

Availability of roadside assistance: Good.

ENTRY/EXIT

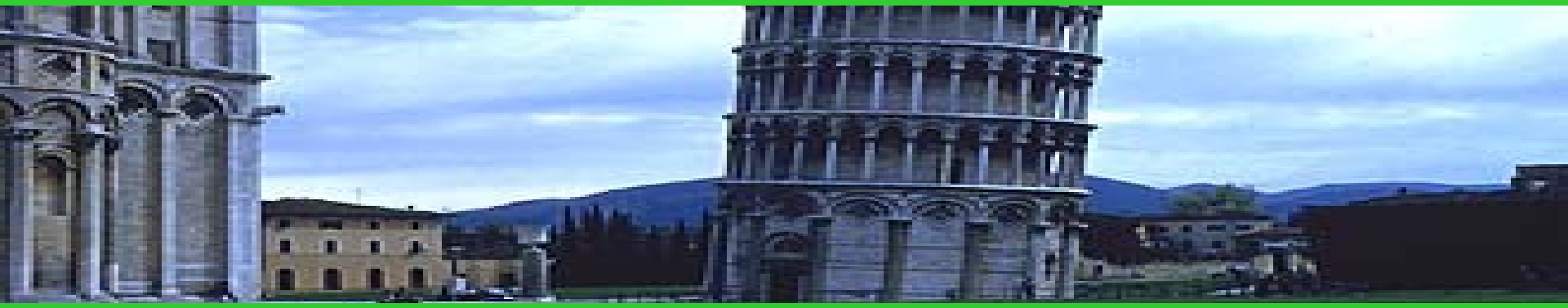
Travel Necessities: US military personnel require ID card and orders. A tourist passport is highly recommended. Civilian personnel (including military dependents) require a passport. A visa is not required if staying less than 90 days. Stays of more than 90 days require a visa obtained prior to arrival in Italy.

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required. Although duty-free, cigarettes and liquor must be declared or fine may be levied or items confiscated.

Duty-free entry for used personal effects: (includes portable typewriter, radio, camera, and film), 400 cigarettes or 250 grams of tobacco or 50 cigars, one liter of liquor (alcohol level 22% or two liters if alcohol level is below 22%), and 2 liters of

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: U.S. citizens who were born in Italy and/or who are also Italian citizens may be subject to compulsory military service and other laws which impose special obligations upon them while in Italy.



Amembassy operating hours are 0830-1730L Mon-Fri. The American Embassy is closed weekends, Italian holidays, and American holidays. When an American holiday falls on a Sunday, Amembassy offices are closed the following day; when the holiday falls on a Saturday, offices are closed the preceding Friday (this does not apply to Italian holidays). In addition, the Italian military virtually closes from 15 July through the end of September. Business should be scheduled

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Imports and exports of Italian currency are restricted to 350,000 lire per border crossing. There are no restrictions on import of foreign currency, however, nonresidents are required to declare the amount imported upon entry in order to export an equal amount of foreign currency. Currency may be exchanged at local banks or exchange agencies, major hotels, or the branch of the Banca di Roma in the Amembassy for personnel on TDY to the embassy only. Use Italian lire in ordinary transactions. Amembassy bank operating hours are 0830-1400, 1500-1615 Mon-Fri (closed on Italian and US holidays). Bank will accept only cash, cashier checks, travelers checks, and US Treasury checks.

Rate: Approximate: 2005 Italian Lira for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, and industrial pollution.
Availability of medical services: Good.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Italy.

Status of hospitals: Good.

Health Precautions: None.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended).

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all military personnel traveling to Italy. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through G3/S3 channels.

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer or equivalent.

Tap water in most major Italian cities is safe to drink. In rural areas, boil water or use bottled mineral water, and use canned or dried milk products. Obtain food supplies only from recommended sources. Consumption of all raw fish should be avoided. There have been occasional episodes of violence in Italy, most often connected to Italian internal developments or social issues. In 1997 and 1998, Italian authorities have found bombs outside public buildings, received bomb threats and have themselves been the subjects of letter bombs, all of which were ascribed to organized crime or anarchist movements. Americans have not been targeted or injured in any of these instances.

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Italy has a low rate of violent crime, little of which is directed toward tourists. Petty crimes such as pickpocketing, theft from parked cars, and purse snatching, however, are serious problems, especially in large cities. Most reported thefts occur at crowded tourist sites, on public buses or trains, or at the major railway stations, including Rome's Termini, Milan's Centrale, Florence's Santa Maria Novella, and Naples' Centrale. Shoulder bags should be carried tightly under the arm with the clasp facing the body. Waist packs should be worn in the front, but be aware that they can be unobtrusively slit open by thieves. Please carry photocopies of passports and financial documents separately from the originals. Thieves in Italy often work in groups or pairs. In a scam practiced on the highway between Rome and Naples, one thief punctures the tire of a rental or out-of-town car. An accomplice signals the flat tire to the driver and encourages

Italy is strict on: Drugs.

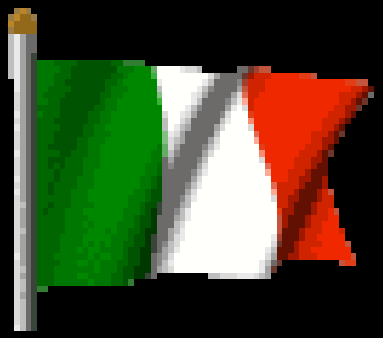
change the tire, while the other takes the driver's belongings. Travelers should avoid driving at night on highways in

WEATHER

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Military personnel in transit thru military bases may wear seasonal uniform. Civilian clothing is preferred for military personnel on leave. Medium-weight suits, topcoats, and rainwear are recommended from Oct-Mar; however, severe winter conditions may be encountered, particularly in the northern regions from Dec thru Mar. Light-weight clothes from Apr-Sep.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for



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